From: The National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of Azerbaijan
To: The National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of Georgia
24 November 2008

Dear Baha'i friends,
Further to our letter dated 03 November 2008 (sent on 09 Nov.2008) and answering your questions regarding the financing the expenses and other arrangements for your delegates to attend the forthcoming Regional Conference in Baku on 21-22 February 2009, we would like to share with you some guidance we have got from the Institution of Counselors.
In its message of 20 October 2008, the Universal House of Justice has stated:
"We urge the believers, both those fully engaged in executing the provisions of the Plan and those whose circumstances have prevented them from fulfilling their desire to do so until now, to avail themselves of this opportunity and attend the conference to be held in their area."

Regarding the believers to attend the Conference:

"In accord with this guidance, it is essential that the relevant Counselors, National Spiritual Assemblies, and in some cases Regional Baha`i Councils, identify those believers whose participation in these conferences is critical to the achievement of the aim of the Five Year Plan, particularly those who are working with clusters where intensive programs of growth have been launched, or are to be launched by Ridvan 2009 and beyond, and who can be expected to assist with these goals. Every effort should be made to ensure their participation, even if subsidy is required."

So, since the goal is to catalyze the launching of intensive programs of growth, efforts should be made and funds should be provided as necessary to ensure the attendance of:

- Key believers from clusters with intensive programs of growth
- Key believers from clusters scheduled to launch IPGs by Ridvan 2009
- Members of National Spiritual Assemblies
- Auxiliary Board members and their assistants
- Members of Regional Baha'i Councils
- Institute Coordinators (national, regional and cluster level)
- Members of Area Teaching Committees and Local Spiritual Assemblies

Travel Expenses

"To the extent possible, believers should cover their own travel expenses. Indeed, it is expected that some friends may need to sacrifice in order to respond to the call of the Universal House of Justice, and they should not be deprived of this act. In cases where partial or full funding is necessary to ensure the participation of key individuals, consideration should be given to the possibility of hiring buses for group transportation in order to minimize costs.
"Transportation of the participants to Baku should be as economic as possible. One cost effective suggestion in this regard presented in the "Financial Guidelines" document is the hiring of buses for group

transportation," provided that it is reasonably practicable to do so comparing with traveling by train.
Since the National Spiritual Assembly of Azerbaijan is asked to prepare a budget on an urgent basis, we need to have, as soon as possible, exact number of participants and expected financial contributions to the expenses of your delegates.

With loving Baha'i greetings,
Ramazan Asgarov
Secretary